

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1 1. A remote system for an automotive dealership having a  
 2 number of vehicles with remotely controlled components, the system comprising:  
 3 a programmable transmitter for transmitting a common signal for  
 4 controlling at least one remotely controlled component on at least one vehicle, the  
 5 programmable transmitter being adjustable to select a signal transmission range;  
 6 a receiver for receiving the common signal and interacting the signal  
 7 with the at least one component; and *computer*  
 8 a programming source for generating a programming signal for *arm/disarm*  
 9 programming the transmitter for prohibiting operation of the remotely controlled  
 10 component during at least one programmable period.

1 2. The system of claim 1, wherein the selectable signal  
 2 transmission range is sufficiently limited to only reach the receiver in the vehicle  
 3 nearest the transmitter.

1 3. The system of claim 1, wherein the signal transmission range  
 2 is in the range of between four to six feet.

1 4. The system of claim 1, wherein the remote system is a remote  
 2 keyless entry system.

1 5. The system of claim 1, wherein at least one of the remotely  
 2 controlled components is a vehicle security system.

1 6. The system of claim 5, wherein the common signal is capable  
 2 of arming/disarming the vehicle security system.

1 7. The system of claim 5, further comprising a door lock that  
 2 operates in conjunction with the vehicle security system, wherein the door is locked  
 3 when the vehicle security system is armed and the door is unlocked when the vehicle  
 4 security system is disarmed.

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1 8. The system of claim 1, wherein the programming source is  
2 a computer that is adapted to provide a programming signal.

1 9. The system of claim 8, wherein the computer is adapted to  
2 communicate the programming signal by a cable connected to the transmitter.

1 10. The system of claim 8, wherein the computer is adapted to  
2 communicate the programming signal by a radio frequency received by the  
3 transmitter.

1 11. The system of claim 8, wherein the programming signal is a  
2 digital bit stream transmitted over a radio frequency link.

1 12. The system of claim 1, wherein the at least one programmable  
2 period corresponds to a time when employees are not supposed to access the  
3 vehicle.

1 13. The system of claim 1, wherein the at least one programmable  
2 period corresponds to specified times during a day.

1 14. The system of claim 1, wherein the programming source  
2 programs the transmitter to transmit a customer signal, wherein the at least one  
3 component on only one vehicle is operable in response to the customer signal but  
4 is not responsive to the common signal when the customer signal is programmed.

1 15. A programmable transmitter for transmitting a signal to a  
2 remotely positionable receiver, the transmitter comprising;  
3 an oscillator for transmitting the signal;  
4 a programmable encoder for programming one type of signal  
5 transmitted by the oscillator;  
6 a battery for providing power to the transmitter;

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7 a control switch actuatable to initiate signal transmission by the  
 8 oscillator;  
 9 a programmable interrupt prohibiting the oscillator from transmitting  
 10 during specified periods; and  
 11 a time indicator for monitoring the specified periods.

1 16. The transmitter of claim 15, wherein the oscillator is  
 2 adjustable to select a signal transmission range.

1 17. The transmitter of claim 15, wherein the programmable  
 2 interrupt is adapted to receive a signal for programming the specified periods.

1 18. The transmitter of claim 15, wherein the encoder is adapted  
 2 to receive a signal for directing the oscillator to transmit a customer signal or a  
 3 common signal.

1 19. A method for arming/disarming a vehicle at an automotive  
 2 dealership, the method comprising:  
 3 selecting the signal transmission range of the transmitter;  
 4 transmitting a signal from a programmable transmitter for  
 5 arming/disarming a security system of the vehicle;  
 6 receiving the signal by a receiver for interacting the signal with the  
 7 security system; and  
 8 generating a signal at a programming source for programming the  
 9 transmitter to prohibit operation of the vehicle by the security system during at least  
 10 one programmable period.

1 20. The method of claim 19, wherein the programmable period  
 2 corresponds to a time when employees are not supposed to access the vehicle.

1 21. A method for arming/disarming a vehicle at an automotive  
 2 dealership, the method comprising:  
 3 selecting the signal transmission range of the transmitter;

4 transmitting a signal from a programmable transmitter for  
5 arming/disarming a security system of the vehicle;  
6 receiving the signal by a receiver for interacting the signal with the  
7 security system; and  
8 generating a signal at a programming source for programming the  
9 receiver to prohibit operation of the vehicle by the security system during at least  
10 one programmable period.

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